

Caltrans NEPA Assignment Talking Points

- California is currently the only state to be assigned responsibility for NEPA Environmental Assessment/FONSI and EIS level documents pursuant to 23 USC 327 (NEPA Assignment).
- California was the only state to have participated in the NEPA Assignment Pilot Program, authorized by SAFTEA-LU, June 1, 2007 – September 30, 2012.
- Under the Pilot Program, Caltrans successfully completed five years of FHWA audits and reporting, and is now the only state in the monitoring phase of NEPA Assignment. Monitoring is required annually.
- California is one of three states to have CE Assignment (23 USC 326) and was the first state to assume this responsibility.

Number of Environmental Approvals under NEPA Assignment

23 USC 326 CEs	23 USC 327 CEs	Draft EAs¹	FONSIs²	Draft EISs¹	Final EISs²	RODs	Total
8,121	118	153	144	17	12	11	8,576

Data: July 1, 2007 through April 30, 2014 for Capital and Local Assistance programs.

Median Times Savings for Caltrans Environmental Approvals and Coordination Completed under NEPA Assignment Program

NEPA Environmental Approval Processing Milestones	Pre-NEPA Assignment Program Median Duration in Months (# of approvals)	NEPA Assignment Program Median Duration in Months (# of approvals)	Median Time Savings Realized in Months
<i>Begin Environmental Studies to Draft Environmental</i>	40.4 (31)	31.4 (149)	8.9
<i>Begin Environmental Studies to Environmental Assessment or Finding of No Significant Impact Approval</i>	52.2 (31)	43.3 (128)	8.9
<i>Notice of Intent to Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>	71.0 (8)	35.2 (17)	35.8
<i>Notice of Intent to Final Environmental Impact Statement</i>	193.9 (5)	54.2 (10)	139.7
<i>Begin Coordination with USFWS/NMFS to Completion of ESA Section 7</i>	11.0 (25)	5.7 (93)	5.3

Data: July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2014 for Capital and Local Assistance programs.

¹ Number of Draft ED approvals reported under NEPA Assignment, regardless of BES date or NOI date (i.e., environmental phase may have started prior to NEPA Assignment)

² Number of Final ED approvals, regardless of BES date or NOI date, including projects under which the Draft ED may have been approved prior to NEPA Assignment